



## Eight artists express their ideas about “Ecology” at the Insight Art Gallery

Insight Art Gallery in Paradera opened a new exposition on Friday, August 24, with eight participating artists. “This is a spare, tight collection,” expressed participating artist Ryan Oduber, “and I think one of the best I have seen for several months.”

The current theme, “Ecology,” had certainly evoked amongst the contributing artists a diversity of interpretation and mediums. Gallery Curator Alida Martinez has an entry that most outwardly embodies the concept, an instillation made with natural woods best viewed from a distance and which could be titled “The Domino Effect.” Interestingly enough, one of the most superficially puzzling pieces in this collection at a gallery that is known for its avant garde school of art is the “Magic Box” by Rob ter Haar. When one thinks of “ecology” we associate it with the balance of nature and the environment, and Rob’s sharp edged optical illusions somehow seem out of context. According to the artist, the numbers in the magic box are “a single number that cannot be positioned elsewhere, or be removed, without affecting the total sum. Alteration and meddling with such an integrated system will lead to its collapse.” Along with his optical illusions that allude to the absolute inter-dependence of all species, and how this is being painfully disrupted, these works most subtly expound the theme “Ecology.”

Less subtle, but certainly humorous is the modern cactus of Ryan Oduber, and the contrasting landscapes of Nelson Gonzalez particularly draw the observer, as the brilliant hues attract at first glance. His works more obviously embraces the theme of the exposition, expressing how man is destroying and consuming his environment.

The expositions at Insight Art Gallery invariably attempt to be thought provoking and topical, and the work of Rob ter Haar, David Bade, Nelson Gonzalez, Alida Martinez, Hugo Palmar, Tirzo Matha, Zuley Correa and Marisol Canizalez certainly exemplify that goal. In a world where the interpretation of “what is art?” is so very subjective, the works that are now on display give a very interesting example of how provocative in their expression artists can be, while making an important social statement. It is a collection aimed at spurring the viewer to contemplation of important issues, and it is certainly successful.

Insight Art Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM and the current collection will be on display until September 25. Alida Martinez states that she is available for group and weekend tours by calling 568-9168. It is advised to call ahead for directions to the gallery, located adjacent to Santa Cruz in the center of the island.